



Montana
Office of Public Instruction
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Montana's *School Wellness Policy in Action Mini-Grant Program*

January 17, 2011

Dear School Personnel,

The Montana Team Nutrition (MTN) Program announces a competitive grant opportunity in support of school wellness policy implementation efforts. With funds from the 2010 USDA Team Nutrition Training Grant, the Montana Office of Public Instruction will award ten \$5,000 mini grants to school districts that participate in the National School Lunch and/or Breakfast Programs throughout Montana.

This is the second offering of the *School Wellness Policy in Action Mini Grant Program* that is being offered in response to the need for school wellness policy implementation at the local level. The purpose of the grant is to support student wellness through nutrition and physical activity. Grant goals are to provide start-up funds to partially support a) a school wellness coordinator to direct student wellness activities; or b) action steps of the school wellness policy implementation plan that include nutrition and physical activities.

A total of \$50,000 for mini-grants (up to **\$5,000 each**) will be awarded to school districts through a competitive process. See the attached grant application for details. School districts that received a 2010 School Wellness Policy in Action Mini Grant are not eligible for this grant program.

Please share this letter and mini grant application with administrators or school personnel. The application must be received by February 27, 2011. Grants will be awarded as early as March 27, 2011, and the funds must be spent by August 31, 2012. Training and technical assistance will be offered to grant recipients; a mid-term progress report and a final program report will be required of all grant recipients.

Award applications will be rated according to the following criteria: (100 point scale)

- The school district must have an active School Wellness or Health Advisory Committee comprised of a variety of stakeholders. (15 points)
- The proposed project plan describes how the goal(s) of the grant will be carried out in detail. (Attachment B - Summary of Components). (45 points)
- The plan promotes a collaborative approach between students, school staff, and the community. (5 pts.)
- The sustainability of the project outcome(s), beyond the grant period, is addressed. (10 points)
- The proposed budget is appropriate and realistic. (Attachments C and D) (20 points)
- The application packet must be submitted by the deadline. **Deadline is February 27, 2011.** (5 points)
- Bonus points – 5 points will be given if the majority of the schools within the district are enrolled as Team Nutrition Schools.

If you have questions, please contact Katie Bark by telephone at (406) 994-5641 or by e-mail kbark@mt.gov. Technical assistance via conference calls will be offered in February; additional details are included in the application packet.

An electronic version of this application is available at the Office of Public Instruction, School Nutrition Programs Web site at http://www.opi.mt.gov/Programs/SchoolPrograms/School_Nutrition/index.html#gpm1_5